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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: MUTHANNA: SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR ASSASSINATION OF
GOVERNOR, OTHERS SOUGHT

REF: A) BAGHAD 2817 B) BAGHDAD 2783

Classified By: PRT Leader Phil Eggers for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (U) This is a PRT Muthanna Reporting Cable.

[1](#)2. (C) On 22 August Brigadier Khadim Abulheel, Muthanna,s
Chief of Police, announced to Muthanna TV that security
forces in the province had arrested perpetrators of Governor
Hassani,s assassination. In the statement, he did not share
the names, or tribal and political affiliations of the
suspects.

[1](#)3. (C) The PRT received a separate report that two suspects
had been arrested, but that two more remained at large. One
detainee is reportedly from the Al-Sohoor, a sub-tribe of
Albu Hassan (the tribe of the late Governor). The other is
allegedly from the Al-Khezael tribe, which has a strong
presence between Rumaytha and Diwaniyah. According to this
same source, Col Ali Najim Mutasher, of the Criminal
Intelligence Unit, has already managed to obtain useful
information from the suspects, including identity of the
attack,s mastermind and the source of funding, both of which
are reportedly affiliated with JAM. JAM capitalized on a
disagreement over a local matter between the Governor and the
Al-Sohoor, and managed to convince two members of that tribe
to assist them in the attack, according to this same person,
who has been reliable in the past. Our source said that the
search for the other two suspects continues, with the
assistance of security forces in Diwaniyah.

[1](#)4. (C) The Australian forces, who provide overwatch for
Muthanna province, have received one separate report that the
two men arrested were &neighbors of the Governor.⁸ If
true, this local complicity would be consistent with the
reports of tribal involvement. PRT is working to further
clarify details of the arrests, including the number of
suspects.

CROCKER